

The Messenger.

DEATH OF A DISTINGUISHED CONFEDERATE

Georgia and the south have lost a faithful, heroic and distinguished soldier in the death of Major General Lafayette McLaws. He died at Savannah on 23d inst. He was the oldest living soldier of his rank with but one exception. He was born in 1822 at Augusta, Ga. He first attended the University of Virginia, and thence went to West Point Military Academy, where he was graduated in 1842. He served in the Mexican war. In 1857, as captain of infantry he was in the expedition against the Mormons and Navajo Indians. He entered the Confederate service and early began to face perils for his native southland. An account says that as brigadier general his "services in the battle of Lee's Mill, his manoeuvres on the retreat to Richmond and at the battle of Williamsburg brought his advancement May 22, when he was made major general. At the battles of Savage Station and Malvern Hill he commanded divisions, and on the retreat of the federal army from the Virginia peninsula his division watched the operations at Harrison's Landing. His division was with the army of Northern Virginia in its march into Maryland.

He captured Harper's Ferry and Maryland Heights and rejoined the main army at Sharpsburg in time to restore the Confederate line. He was at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Knoxville. He defeated General Sedgwick's assault at New Church, and was in the command of Georgia and opposed Sherman's march through the state. General Johnston's surrender included his command, and after the war General McLaws established himself in business in Augusta.

He was appointed collector of internal revenue in 1875 and collector of the port of Savannah in 1876.

He was a good soldier and has left a distinguished record. The soldiers of other states respected General McLaws. You could count upon him in the critical hour. He was never too slow, and no battle was lost because of his dilatoriness, incapacity or unfaithfulness. But few soldiers of Georgia rendered such noble, distinguished services, and he deserves well of his native state and of the entire south. A monument to his memory should be reared at the capital city, Atlanta. We do not know a more gallant, a more trustworthy, a more capable soldier of his grade from Georgia. He and Gordon deserve the palm we would suppose, among the Georgia officers. We would not put Longstreet with them, for of all soldiers of high rank he was the slowest of the slow. Those who have studied Gettysburg know how much of the failure is to be laid at his door. General McLaws was thoroughly versed in the matter, and our recollection is, that he showed up Longstreet's blunders and misstatements most effectively. In Longstreet's book he perpetuates blunders enough to sink his credibility out of sight. By the way, it is said that his book was written by a Yankee officer, the Georgian furnishing the material. His book is credited no where but in the north. They like it because it abounds in disparage of southern soldiers. Longstreet blundered in war and he blunders in peace. You may put it down that when Confederate soldiers sought and obtained places of profit within a few years after the war that there was a lack of moral stamina and patriotic backbone in them—that after all there was not the sort of material out of which are fashioned men of heroic mold with great souls.

EXPERTS ON THE CIGARETTE HABIT.

There is one question of such genuine interest that a recurrence to it needs no apology. It is a question that should be continually discussed until it is made plain to all understandings and the dangers are thoroughly exposed. We refer to the deadly cigarette. A lady recently told us of the death of a lad of some fourteen in a North Carolina town. The doctors said he was killed by cigarette smoking. We knew his parents long and well. Every week some case is reported in which the cigarette gets in its deadly work. It is a very much more dangerous habit than smoking a pipe or cigar. It is far worse than chewing. In Johnson's "Chemistry of Common Life," he says the use of tobacco is not injurious to all persons. Nervous people should avoid tobacco in all forms. We have known scores of old men—from 70 to 90 or more, who used tobacco habitually. We knew an old man in Halifax county, who was 94 years old and was chewing tobacco. He told us he had been chewing since he was 14—quite 80 years, and he used it habitually. He was a small man and at 94 in good health, having walked the day we met him two miles in a sandy road to church. Tobacco, either smoked or chewed, does not kill many, we suppose. Some men have developed the "tobacco heart," but ninety men in one hundred are probably not much injured by its use. Tobacco is used by millions of people and has been through the decades, and not many comparatively have been destroyed by it.

But the cigarette is quite "a horse of another color." The cigarette has a potentiality for killing not given to the

weed in any other form. Men of science have pointed out its bad effects, and why it gets in so quickly and so surely its deadly work. A writer in the Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle of the 22nd instant has a long article on the "Cigarette Habit." He seems to be well posted as to its effects. We will quote some of his statements:

"If they were purged from deleterious substances very little would be left but the wrapping paper. Cigarette smoking is more terrible in its effects on young boys than alcoholic drinks. The whole nervous system is ruined through this poisonous habit. Some have been made deaf by their use. In others there is undue twitching of the eyelids, a weakening of the nerves of the tongue, arms, limbs, etc. Some lose their memory, are stupid mentally. There has been cases where others have been sent to reformatories and asylums. Tobacco heart is the name applied by physicians to the deadly disease produced by excessive use of cigarettes. It is impossible for those who smoke cigarettes to be healthy. Mentally they are less keen and receptive, less refined, they lack power, have feeble digestion, often have weak eyes, pallor of face and general inability to resist disease of any kind. An analysis of tobacco used for cigarettes was found to be strongly impregnated with opium, while the wrapper which was warranted to be rice paper was proven to be ordinary quality of paper whitened with arsenic, the two poisons combined being present in sufficient quantities to create in the smoker a habit of using opium without his being aware of it and which craving can only be satisfied by an incessant consumption of cigarettes."

This is not a singular statement by any means. The opinions of chemists and doctors have been often published and on the very line of the above. The cigarette is a poison, and a deadly one. Its victims are counted in this country by the thousands yearly. Not less than 200 boys are sent annually to the grave each year by this insidious poison in North Carolina. The above writer says that "each manufacturer has his own formula of poisons which he adds to cheap tobacco so that each user of a particular brand soon finds himself wedded to it through the contraction of a drug habit, thus making him a steady customer. Each boy who smokes them may be regarded as a prospective drunkard, an opium slave or in danger of being a lunatic. No one can indulge in this pernicious habit without becoming in some way wrecked. I read of one brand called 'The Devil's Own.' If ever the arch fiend excelled himself in wickedness it was when he tempted some soul to filthy lucre by sale of cigarettes, and if there is no other reason why their use should be avoided it is that even the lowest human should not want to be accused of serving his Satanic majesty."

There is a consensus of opinion among men of science who have given close attention to the tobacco habit as to the deleterious and dangerous effects of cigarette indulgence. Among those who have discussed it intelligently, forcibly, is Dr. Leslie E. Keeley. We make an extract from his pamphlet, and intelligent people should read and consider what is said:

"The inhalation of tobacco smoke is much more injurious than tobacco used in any other form, and when this is added the fumes of opium, Indian hemp and other drugs the results are infinitely worse. It will readily be understood, therefore, that the real danger of cigarette smoking arises from the inhalation of carbon monoxide, which is extremely poisonous on account of its strong affinity for the hemoglobin of the blood, which brings about cardiac inhibition, or heart paralysis. In an adult the disturbance of the nerve functions is shown by more or less mental confusion, tremulousness, loss of vigor—mental as well as physical—disorders of digestion and ultimately by irregularities of the heart's action, and not infrequently by structural changes in that organ which result in the development of 'tobacco heart,' now so widely prevalent as a consequence of nicotine poisoning."

The young cigarette smoker soon acquires that pale, waxy color, that bloodless, sapless appearance, which brands him as a devotee, without energy, and generally retaining few of the moral impulses which should direct ambition, patriotism or virtue, and he is easily led in the direction of moral and physical corruption. In time he applies to a physician; his heart pulsates irregularly, his pulse intermits, the action is feeble; and too late he realizes that he has become a physical wreck, with little hope of recovery."

A habit that breaks down the physical system and superinduces disease is a very bad habit, and should be at once abandoned. When it is so dangerous and sure to kill thousands who indulge in it, it ought to be banished from the land. Many writers say that it is as bad or worse than the drink habit. But you will find people in the churches all around the land almost cranks in their zeal against the liquor traffic that have nothing to say against cigarettes, and many really like their manufacture.

SNAPS.

The news from France, England, and perhaps other countries, is that the new extreme tariff is regarded as strictly hostile to other countries and its whole system is that of commercial boycotting.

The most monstrous political dogma of this country and age is that it is wise statesmanship and good morals to rob by taxation 70,000,000 of toilers for the benefit of less than 2,000,000 of favored recipients.

The republican economic theory now in operation is based upon the starting principle that the sure way to prosperity is along the highway of high taxation. Nothing can be more monstrous and more false.

Raleigh has not had a case of typhoid fever this year.

LIFE'S BRIGHT SIDE.

THREE PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE CURE OF BUSINESS DEPRESSION

Rev. Dr. Talmage Preaches a Sermon of Business Cheer—Christian Investment. Spiritual Awakening—A Warning—Life's Shipwreck—Worth of the Soul

This discourse of Dr. Talmage shows how all may help in the restoration of good times, and is most appropriate. Text, Lamentations iii, 39. "Wherefore doth a living man complain?"

A cheerful interrogatory in the most melancholy book of the Bible! Jeremiah wrote so many sad things that we have a word named after him, and when anything is surcharged with grief and complaint we call it a Jeremiah. But in my text Jeremiah, as by a sudden jolt, wakens us to a thankful spirit. Our blessings are so much more numerous than our deserts that he is surprised that anybody should ever find fault. Having life and with it a thousand blessings it ought to hush into perpetual silence everything like criticism of the dealings of God. "Wherefore doth a living man complain?"

While everything in our national finances is brightening, for the last few years the land has been set to the tune of "Naomi." There has been here and there a cheerful soloist, but the grand chorus has been one of lamentation, accompanied by dirges over protracted commerce silent manufactories unemployed mechanism, and all those disorders described by the two short words, "hard times." The fact is that we have been paying for the bloody luxury of war more than 30 years ago. There were great national differences, and we had not enough Christian character to settle them by arbitration and treaty, and so we went into battle, expending life and treasure and well nigh swamping the national finances, and north and south, east and west, have ever since been paying for those four years' indulgence in barbarism.

But the time has come when this depression ought to end, when it will end if the people are willing to do two or three things by way of financial medication, for the people as well as congress must join in the work of recuperation. The best political economists tell us that there is no good reason for continuing prostration. Plenty of money awaiting investment. The national health with never so strong an arm or so clear a brain. Yet we go on groaning, groaning, as though God had put this nation upon gravel and allowed us but one decent breakfast in ten months. The fact is the habit of complaining has been chronic in this country and after all these years of whimper and wailing and obsequiousness we are under such a momentum of snivel that we cannot stop.

A PLEA FOR CHEERFULNESS.

There are three prescriptions by which I believe that our individual and national finances may be cured of their present depression. The first is cheerfulness and behavior. I have noticed that the people who are in the most comfortable circumstances, I have made inquiry of those persons who are violent in their jeremiads against these times, and I have asked them, "Now, after all, are you not making a living? Are you not getting on? Are you not clearing your throats three or four times they say stammering, 'Y-e-s.' So that with a great multitude of people it is not a question of getting a livelihood, but they are dissatisfied because they are not making money. They have only \$2,000 in the bank, where they would like to have \$4,000. They can clear in a year only \$5,000, when they would like to clear \$10,000, or things come out just even. But in their trade they get \$3 a day when they could make \$4 or \$5. 'Oh,' says some one, 'they are not aware of the fact that there is a great population out of employment, and there are hundreds of the good families of this country who are at their wits' end not knowing which way to turn. It is no wonder, then, that any man in private life can be so sad, for it comes constantly to my eye and ear, but who is responsible for this state of things?'"

Much of that responsibility I put upon men in comfortable circumstances who are complaining and growling keep their mouths shut and their hands in their pockets. From that starting point and new houses from being built. You know very well that one despondent man can talk 50 men into despondency, while one cheerful physician can wake up into health a whole army of hypochondriacs. It is no wonder, then, that poor or the unemployed for you to join in this depression. If you have not the wit and the common sense to think of something cheerful to say, then keep silent. There is no man that can be independent of depressed conversation. I was reading of five men who resolved that they would make an experiment and see what they could do in the way of depressing a stout, healthy man, and they resolved to meet him at different points in his journey, and the morning after he was found in the five men met him and said: "Why, you look very sick today. What is the matter?" He said: "I am in excellent health. There is nothing the matter." But, passing down the street, he began to examine his symptoms, and the second of the five men met him and said: "Why, how bad you do look!" "Well," he replied, "I don't feel very well." After awhile the third man met him, and the fourth man met him, and the fifth man came up and said: "Why, you look as if you had the typhoid fever!" "What is the matter with you?" And the man against whom the stratagem had been laid went home and died. And if you meet a man with perpetual talk about hard times and bankruptcy and dreadful winters, that are to come you break down his courage. A few autumnal days, as the winter was coming on, he said: "We shall have a terrible winter. The poor will be frozen out this winter." 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